

Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: ELECTION CAMPAIGN SITREP

1. DURING PAST WEEK, CONSULATE STAFF VISITED FOUR PROVINCES OF KALASIN, KHON KAEN, SAKON NAKHON AND NKP. IN ALL AREAS CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED AND TACTICS ARE BEING CHANGED. FOR EXAMPLE, BUNREUNG THAWORNSAWAT, NEW FORCE CANDIDATE FROM KHON KAEN REPORTS THAT SOME CANDIDATES ARE URGING VOTERS TO VOTE FOR THEM ALONE, RATHER THAN FOR THE FULL QUOTA TWO OR THREE.

2. ISSUES ARE STILL ON THE BACKBURNER AND THERE IS NO UPSWING OF VIOLENCE. STUDENTS ARE QUIET, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN ATTEMPT IN SAKON NAKHON TO ORGANIZE A FORUM WHICH FIZZLED. FINALLY, IT WAS REPORTED TO CONSULATE POLITICAL ASSISTANT THAT ACTIVISTS THIRAYUT BUNMI AND SEKSAN PRASERTKUN HAVE BEEN IN KHON KAEN BUYING LISTS OF DECEASED VILLAGERS FROM VILLAGE CHIEFS

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FOR 300 TO 500 BAHT.

3. DISTRICT OFFICER OF BAN PHAI, KHON KAEN IS CONDUCTING VERY ACTIVE GET-OUT-THE-VOTE CAMPAIGN. HE HOPES TO WIN DOLA COMPETITION AMONG DISTRICTS ON PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT.

4. KHON KAEN STILL LOOKS LIKE THE POLITICAL MAVERICK IN THE NORTHEAST. OF THE THREE AVAILABLE SEATS IN THE FIRST DISTRICT KLEAW NORAPHATI OF THE UNITED SOCIALIST FRONT PARTY AND DR. WIRAT KOMUTMAT OF THE NEW FORCE ARE THE FRONT RUNNERS. OTHER IMPORTANT CONTENDERS WILL BE SERI PHONGPHINYO, DEMOCRAT, BUNREUNG THAWORNSAWAT, NEW FORCE, AND CHAWALIT PHAICHIT, SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY. THE OTHER TWO DISTRICTS WILL ELECT FIVE MP'S, AND SIGNIFICANT AMONG THE CANDIDATES ARE TWO SOCIAL AGRARIAN, TWO SOCIAL JUSTICE, ONE THAI NATION, ONE NEW FORCE AND TWO OF THE UNITED SOCIALIST FRONT.

5. KALASIN HAS 8 PROMINENT CANDIDATES FOR FOUR SEATS. OF THOSE, TWO ARE THAI NATION, TWO ARE SOCIAL NATIONALIST, TWO ARE DEMOCRAT, ONE IS NEW FORCE AND ONE IS SOCIALIST OF THAILAND.

6. SAKHON NAKHON HAS NINE PROMINENT CANDIDATES FOR FOUR SEATS. THREE ARE SOCIAL JUSTICE, TWO ARE THAI NATION, TWO ARE SOCIAL AGRARIAN, ONE IS SAP AND ONE IS SOCIAL NATIONALIST.

7. NAKHON PHANOM HAS EIGHT LEADING CONTENDERS FOR ITS FIVE SEATS. FIVE ARE SOCIAL JUSTICE, ONE IS SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND, ONE THAI NATION AND ONE IS SAP.

8. FROM THE TRIP THROUGH THESE PROVINCES IT SEEMS THAT, KHON KAEN ASIDE, ESTABLISHMENT PARTIES STILL APPEAR POSITIONED TO WIN MOST OF THE SEATS. BIGELOW UNQUOTE.
KINTNER

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